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Life after being released  
from ICE's North Lake.

# EL CENTRAL

## HISPANIC NEWS

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2026 World Cup Detroit  
watch party list.

### México, Canadá y USA le dan la bienvenida al Mundial: ¡Que empiece el partido!

Por David Levine

El primer Mundial organizado por tres países arranca hoy! México se enfrentará a Sudáfrica en el Estadio Azteca, la historia se repite con lo que fue el partido inaugural del Mundial de 2010. Esta vez se espera que a los anfitriones les vaya un poco mejor. Sin embargo, en los Estados Unidos, este torneo se ha visto empañado por un sinfín de problemas. Los precios excepcionalmente altos de los boletos han ahuyentado tanto al mercado nacional como al internacional. El costo de los viajes ha aumentado notablemente, en parte porque uno de los países anfitriones, los Estados Unidos, se encuentra en guerra con uno de los clasificados, Irán. Además, dos ciudades, Boston y Nueva York han decidido que las personas que asistan a los partidos de la Copa del Mundo deben pagar mucho más de lo que cuesta el transporte público normal para ir a los juegos, incluyendo la gran final.

Por si fuera poco, el temor a ver asientos vacíos es muy real. Los reportes indican que quedan al menos 10,000 boletos disponibles



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### Mexico, Canada and the USA Welcome Most of the World: Let the Games Begin!

By David Levine

The first World Cup to be hosted by three countries is kicking off today! Mexico will be meeting South Africa at the Azteca in the reverse fixture of the opening match from the 2010 World Cup. This time the hosts are expected to do slightly better. This tournament has been overshadowed in the United States by a myriad of issues. Exceptionally high ticket prices have turned off both the domestic and international market. The cost of travel has jumped in part due to one of the hosts, the United States, being at war with one of the qualifiers, Iran. Two cities, Boston and New York, have decided that people going to World Cup games should pay many times the cost of normal public transportation to attend matches up to and including the final.

If those issues aren't enough, the specter of empty seats looms large. Reports indicate at least 10,000 tickets remain available for the USA's first match against Paraguay at the Los Angeles Stadium. Various ticket sellers such as SeatGeek, Stub Hub, Ticketmaster, and FIFA's

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### Celebrate Together': DSO and Southwest Detroit Unite for Clark Park Festival

By Amber Ogden

For over a century, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) has been world-renowned for the immaculate acoustics of Orchestra Hall, but on Saturday, June 27, the orchestra will trade the velvet-seated confines for the open air and cultural richness of Southwest Detroit's Clark Park.

The Clark Park Culture and Arts Festival, located at 1130 Clark Ave, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., represents a shift in how a major institution connects with the community. Over the last several years, the DSO has been working behind the scenes to change its entire approach to community engagement, moving away from the old model of just popping into a neighborhood for a day and leaving.

Clare Valenti, Director of Community Engagement at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra,

noted that it's been about six years since the DSO marked a shift in how it would continue engaging with the community, specifically in Detroit.

"It was less about us sort of coming into a place and saying, 'This is what we're going to do,' but really wanting to work together with community partners and local residents to co-create and curate these experiences together," Valenti said.

That collaborative mindset completely flips the script on how classical music has traditionally interacted with urban neighborhoods. For decades, major symphonies operated under a "build it and they will come" mentality, which often created an invisible wall between the arts organizations and working-class communities. By bringing high-caliber music directly to the Southwest Detroit residents in "their own

backyard", the DSO is actively dismantling those walls by listening to what the community wants.

"This is really not about what we want. It's about what everyone (local Detroit residents) have told us that they want to see happen in their neighborhood. It really all just started with a few questions: 'What do you want to celebrate? What do you love about living in Southwest Detroit? What do you love about your community, and how can we work together to highlight what that is?'" Valenti said.

When the DSO enters a space with that much history, they are guests in the community's living room. The lineup itself is a mix of classical and local culture, featuring a DSO string quartet playing selections by Central and Latin American composers, alongside young violin students from the Sphinx



Ballet Folklorico Moyocoyani Ize | Photo credit to DSO

Overture program at Caesar Chavez Academy, the senior Ballet Folklorico group from the LA SED Youth and Senior Center, and local rock band Mondo Kane.

For Mondo Kane, a band with a combined 50-plus-year legacy, the Clark Park festival is a homecoming. Bassist and

Mondo Kane band manager Joe Ramón emphasized that the Southwest neighborhood is the ultimate inspiration for their sound.

"It is an honor to present our music and showcase rare oldies and doo-wop exactly as it was performed back then," the band leader shared.

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# Celebrate Together': DSO and Southwest Detroit Unite for Clark Park Festival

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Group photo of Mondo Kane | Photo credit to Mondo Kane

“We want the audience to just sit back, enjoy, or dance, while enjoying a trip down memory lane.”

This festival is about cultural equity, sharing resources, and meeting people where they are. To keep the collaborative connection going, the DSO meets with the planning committee, made up of local residents and organizations, monthly to develop community programming.

“Especially given the climate that we’re in right now, we

need these moments for joy,” Valenti noted.

“When we had our first meeting of 2026, people just wanted a moment to experience joy and experience being together in community. So that’s part of why our tagline ended up being: Celebrate Together.”

To make sure that the celebration is accessible to everyone, the festival is completely free, ticketless, and packed with community resource booths alongside local food vendors.

Beyond the food and performances, the festival is also creating a pipeline for the next generation of Detroit musicians. The DSO will have its Detroit Harmony initiative on-site, providing hands-on instrument exploration for kids and linking families with local music programs right in their neighborhood.

“We believe at the DSO that music is for everyone. You don’t have to come to Orchestra Hall to experience music; there’s music throughout this entire city,” Valenti said.

“Detroit Harmony provides instruments to any student in the city of Detroit who wants to learn how to play, and they can get connected with all of this for free. We want everyone to come out and have a wonderful day, but then we really want them to be able to connect with music throughout the entire year.”

The DSO isn’t interested in being a pop-up presence in Southwest Detroit because, as Valenti emphasized, Clark Park is like the backyard of



Pa La Parranda (Venezuelan band) | Photo Credit to DSO

the entire community, and events like these are an ongoing community effort.

“We’re continuing to build other events throughout the year where we’re (the DSO) able to engage with our partners and Detroit residents; not just have it feel like we’re fly-by-night, popping up one day and then you’re not going to see us again for the year,” Valenti said.

Amber Ogden is a Detroit-based freelance journalist and EL CENTRAL reporter, covering the vital intersections of arts, culture, and community in Southwest Detroit. As a Detroit native, she has had her work appear in The Michigan Chronicle, Visit Detroit, Outlier Media, and Eater Detroit. When she isn’t documenting the happenings of Detroit, she can be found exploring the city’s culinary scene or visiting a local art gallery. Follow her work at [amberogden.com](http://amberogden.com).

### Breaking News: Gordie Howe International Bridge to open!



Ceremonies to officially open the newest and longest cable-stayed bridge in North America between Detroit, MI and Windsor, Ontario, Canada were scheduled after this issue of EL CENTRAL went to press. Look for full coverage of this milestone event in our next issue!



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# Let the Games Begin!

Continued from page 1

own Last Minute Sales and Resell/Exchange sites have hundreds of tickets available for every game. Scalpers may have finally found a limit to FIFA’s dynamic pricing model.

Iran, still engaged in hostilities with the United States, moved their training site from Arizona to Tijuana and requested their group matches be moved, too. FIFA denied the request to move games, so they will play twice in Los Angeles, where there is a massive expatriate Iranian population, and once in Seattle. The Seattle game will be against Egypt and ironically falls on the day of Seattle’s Pride celebration.

FIFA will go into this World Cup one referee short, too. Somali referee Omar Artan had his visa request rejected by the US State Department in line with the Trump administration’s immigration guidelines that prevent people from certain countries from traveling to the US. Artan is an experienced FIFA referee who has officiated games at the African Cup of Nations. This will go down as another embarrassment in what has been a nightmarish buildup to the World Cup. Artan isn’t the only one feeling the sting of rejection, though. Members of the Iranian delegation, not players, have also been denied entry into the USA, no doubt due to their association with the current regime. The Democratic Republic of Congo will not have any supporters coming from their homeland, either. The Ebola outbreak has ruled out any supporters traveling from the DRC to the United States. Fortunately, the entire

team plays in Europe and have not been to Africa for far longer than the required 21 day quarantine period.

All these difficulties and more have not put the tournament in the best light. FIFA and the local organizers have to hope that once the games kick off people will be more focused on what happens on the field. It remains to be seen if FIFA’s ticketing plan works to the point where people can actually get into the stadiums, especially in the USA, in time to see the games. Managing access and egress to the stadiums will be the next challenge to overcome.

**LET THE GAMES BEGIN: Teams Analysis**

It’s time to have a look at the contenders, pretenders, and one or two teams that could do some real damage in this World Cup. With the biggest field ever, this portends a wide open tournament. The big powers have been mostly separated for the group phase. How they navigate their first three matches will set up the knockout brackets going forward.

While biased supporters will be watching their own teams, a wider look at the field shows that one of the top teams will certainly be out after the round of 32. That’s because Group K and Group L have four teams that will be paired off after the group phase. Group K is led by Portugal and Colombia. They will play in the Miami Stadium to close out the group in the most sought after ticket of the group phase. They are matched up with Group L featuring England and Croatia. The two teams have been contenders

for the past two World Cups and European Championships. They meet in the first real blockbuster next Wednesday in Dallas. Why is that important? In the round of 32, the two second place teams meet in Toronto. Any of those four could be the one going home early. Or, could Ghana spring a surprise? Maybe England melts in the American heat like they did in Brazil 2014.

Argentina, the defending champions, kept much the same team from four years ago. Lionel Messi is four years older and runs a lot less than four years ago. Nicolas Otamendi still anchors the back line. Dibu Martinez will be in goal. Lionel Scaloni remains in charge. This time, though, more will be expected of Julian Alvarez and Lautaro Martinez. It can’t be Messi doing all the attacking. The champions were gifted an easy group with Austria, Jordan, and Algeria. They should stroll through it. If they think it’s too easy, Scaloni can remind them of their loss to Saudi Arabia in the group stage in Qatar.

Brazil warmed up for the World Cup by thumping Panama and edging a game Egypt team. However, they lost right back Wesley to a leg injury and still don’t know when or if Neymar Jr will be available. The five-time champions have won twice in North America, 1970 and 1994. They do well here and will have massive support if the 64,000 plus fans who went to Cleveland for the Egypt friendly are any indication. They also have the genius of Carlo

Ancelotti on the touchline. The Italian has won everything at the club level and was part of Italy’s staff in the 1994 World Cup. He has the ability to manage the large egos on the Selecao. Already, he has made a tactical change, switching from a two-man to a three-man midfield during World Cup preparations. He can still unleash the likes of Vinicius Jr, Raphinha, Mateus Cunha, Igor Tiago, and Endrick in various combination of attack. They have to be good in attack, because they aren’t especially strong in defense. Marquinhos and Gabriel played against each other in the UEFA Champions League final, but must be fatigued after a long season. Marquinhos made an uncharacteristic error to gift Egypt a goal and received a long, cold stare from Ancelotti. The fullbacks won’t make anyone forget the likes of Roberto Carlos or Carlos Alberto. They will face Morocco, a semifinalist in 2022, to start before facing Haiti and Scotland.

France have been to the last two finals led by Kylian Mbappe. Les Bleus could probably field two teams such is their supply of talent. Long time coach Didier Deschamps will be stepping down after the World Cup and several players have already stated they want to give him a proper sendoff. Mbappe is far from the only world class player in the team. Deschamps has major decisions to make in attack and that’s after losing Hugo Ekitike to an Achilles injury. The likely setup will have Balon D’Or winner Ousmane Dembele and Bayern Munich star Michael Olise up front with Mbappe. If that doesn’t strike fear into most defenses, Deschamps can turn to Rayan Cherki, Marcus Thuram (son of 1998 World Cup winner Lilian), Desire Doue, and Bradley Barcola. Perhaps the French will have some issues in defense, but their group looks a lot like the team that lost by the thinnest of margins to Argentina in Qatar and wants another shot. This is a team that can rightly believe they can win the Jules Rimet trophy on July 19.

If France come in with confidence and belief, then Spain looks like the team ready to knock them off. Both teams will be expected to win their groups, which would keep them apart until the final. Spain has an easier draw to start. They face newcomers Cape Verde, Saudi Arabia, and Uruguay. France meets Senegal, who famously beat them in 2002, Iraq, and Norway, a team nobody wanted to draw. Spain lacks only a pure center forward. They will probably insert attacking players like Ferran Torres and Mikel Oyarzabal in the position but give them freedom to find the game. Finding the game won’t be an issue for Spain’s teenage star Lamine Yamal. The Barcelona youngster is rehabbing an injury and could miss one or two group matches. Once he is ready, expectations will be high. He is Messi’s successor at Barcelona and

has lit up La Liga for the past two seasons. He will now introduce himself to the world at the highest level. The rest of the squad is loaded with top players at top clubs. There are eight from Barcelona alone. However, for the first time ever, there are no Real Madrid players in the squad. Given the talent Luis de la Fuente has included, they won’t be missed. Like France, they are deep, talented, and hungry. France versus Spain would be a worthy final.

France, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Portugal, and England will all start the World Cup feeling that they are contenders. They feel like that every four years. So, who could cause a problem for them? Only a fool would take Germany lightly. Led by Julian Nagelsmann, they have a solid squad with an injection of some lively young players that will give any team a problem. Unfortunately, their teenage sensation Lennart Karl picked up an injury during the team’s final preparations and will miss the World Cup. They still have Arsenal’s Kai Havertz and Jamal Musiala and Joshua Kimmich from Bayern Munich among their top players. They play rugged defense and have three top notch goalkeepers.

Norway has their best generation of players all together all at once. Prior to the World Cup, the team got together for a photo shoot in full Viking attire. Nobody looked more intimidating than striker Erling Haaland. He doesn’t touch the ball much, but when he does he has a knack for putting it in the back of the net. He’s big and powerful and will keep defenses under pressure. With Martin Odegaard pulling the strings in midfield and a supporting cast of players from around the Premier League and other top leagues, Norway is a team most wanted to avoid during the group stage. They raced through qualifying, crushing Italian dreams and forcing them into the playoffs where they fell apart again. Norway will be with France, Senegal, and Iraq during the group phase.

Morocco showed they were no slouches in Qatar, becoming the first African country to make the semifinals. Could they repeat the feat? Their path is difficult, facing Brazil to start. Goalkeeper Yassine Bounou will keep them in games. They also have the best attacking full back in football in Achraf Hakimi. Real Madrid didn’t put any players on Spain’s team, but Brahim Diaz will be a key player for Morocco. He has the ability to unlock defenses and create the chances Morocco will need to advance.

Finishing second in the group would put them up against the Group F winner in the round of 32. On paper that could be another team with potential: the Netherlands. The Dutch beat the USA in the round of 16 in Qatar. This time, they aren’t among the favorites but still possess a lot of talented players. They need Frankie de Jong to control games from midfield and find a consistent



goal threat in the front line. Memphis Depay hasn’t been fit or effective since moving to Corinthians in Brazil, just one goal in six games in 2026. Brian Brobbey and Donyell Malen will compete for time at center forward. Virgil Van Dijk still anchors the back line, but he looked vulnerable in the Premier League and will need a partner who can cover more ground. The Dutch can compete with any team but have always had the reputation as the “nearly” men of World Cups.

The three host nations aren’t contenders or even dark horse candidates according to most experts. Canada, the weakest of the three, has lost two key players to injury already. Winger Marcelo Flores tore his ACL playing for Tigres in the CONCACAF Champions Cup final. Defender Moise Bombito also had to drop from the team after failing to recover from injury. Losing two starters is bad enough, but star defender Alphonso Davies remains injured. He’s with the team and on the roster, but it’s not clear when or if he will be able to play. That would be another major blow for team that

simply doesn’t have the depth to go to the bottom end of the roster and find quality. They will face Bosnia-Herzegovina, Switzerland, and Qatar with expectations of a third place finish. It’s possible that they won’t get past the group phase. It would be a big blow, but their advancement will likely depend on how badly they can beat Qatar, if they can.

Mexico has hosted the World Cup twice and reached the quarterfinals both times. That would be a spectacular tournament for Javier Aguirre’s team. Even with teenager Gilberto Mora ready to step into the global spotlight, this is a mediocre side based on previous editions. They are reliant on aging striker Raul Jiminez, having left Inter Miami’s German Berterame off the team in favor of more domestic players. Two former US youth internationals have made the team. Brian Gutierrez and Obed Vargas are in the pool of midfielders. How Aguirre chooses to use them will be interesting. Mexico has a balanced group with South Africa, South Korea, and Czechia. South Korea will have their star Heung-Min Son

leading the line. The LAFC forward remains a threat to score from anywhere. Czechia will be a typically physical team. They might struggle at altitude in Mexico but will be more effective when their games move to the USA.

After reaching the round of 16 in 2022, the United States has to believe that is the minimum in 2026. After sacking Gregg Berhalter in the wake of the Copa America debacle, the team has had some more rough moments in the buildup to Friday night’s game against Paraguay. Hiring Mauricio Pochettino didn’t go over well in some quarters of the domestic soccer community. He doesn’t live in the USA, preferring to keep his homes in London and Barcelona, and isn’t completely fluent in English. He is fluent in football though and there has been improvement in the team’s set up.

The USA didn’t get any favors from the draw. Paraguay, Australia, and Turkiye have all faced the USA within the last year. The Americans beat Australia and Paraguay and lost to Turkiye. Most experts believe the group will play

out the same way in the World Cup. That would put the US against the second place team from Group G, potentially Iran, in Dallas. Winning the group would mean staying on the West Coast.

The US team under Pochettino has been able to create plenty of offense. Folarin Balogun and Ricardo Pepi bring different qualities to the center forward position but are coming off excellent scoring seasons in Europe. Christian Pulisic broke his scoreless drought against Senegal and will have to be a driving force. There are options in midfield and on the wings, the likes of which no previous US manager has had. However, unlike previous US managers Pochettino does not have a top level goalkeeper. Matt Freese didn’t command his area well enough against Germany and Matt Turner has yet to recapture the form that earned him the starting job in Qatar. The defense has been prone to errors. Miles Robinson found himself at the heart of both goals conceded to Germany last weekend.

Ahead of the opener against Paraguay, the biggest question mark for the USA remains

Chris Richards’ fitness. The Crystal Palace center back hasn’t played in a month due to ankle ligament injury. He trained for the first time with the team on Monday. Given Robinson’s struggles against Germany and even in MLS for his club, supporters are right to hold their breath and hope Richards can be ready for Friday night.

The preliminaries are now done. After a multitude of pre-game ceremonies, the first game will finally kick off in the biggest World Cup ever. Forty-eight teams all start even. Each one will want to make an impact. Some are just hoping not to be run off the field. Others have legitimate reason to believe they can hoist the World Cup on July 19. Once the games start, let’s hope all the action remains on the field and the issues that piled up before will become distant memories.

*David Levine has been covering soccer for 30 years, locally ,nationally and internationally for EL CENTRAL Hispanic News. His is a lifelong aficionado and currently a volunteer youth soccer coach. He also enjoys classical music and opera, as well as cooking.*

## ¡Que empiece el partido!

Continúa de la página 1

para el primer partido de USA contra Paraguay en el Los Angeles Stadium. Varias boleterías como SeatGeek, StubHub, Ticketmaster, así como los propios sitios de FIFA de Last Minute Sales y de Reventa/Intercambio, tienen cientos de entradas disponibles para cada partido. Es muy probable que los revendedores por fin hayan encontrado el límite al modelo de precios dinámicos de la FIFA.

Irán, que sigue en conflicto con los Estados Unidos, trasladó su sede de entrenamiento de Arizona a Tijuana

y solicitó que también se cambiaran de sede sus partidos de grupo. La FIFA rechazó la solicitud de mover los juegos, por lo que jugarán dos veces en Los Ángeles —donde hay una enorme población de expatriados iraníes— y una vez en Seattle. El partido en Seattle será contra Egipto e, irónicamente, coincide con el día de la celebración del Orgullo Gay de Seattle.

La FIFA también llegará a este Mundial con un árbitro menos. El árbitro somalí Omar Artan vio rechazada su solicitud de visa por el US State

Department, bajo las pautas de inmigración de la administración Trump que impiden que personas de ciertos países viajen a los Estados Unidos. Artan es un árbitro experimentado de la FIFA que ha dirigido partidos en la Copa Africana de Naciones. Esto quedará registrado como otra vergüenza en lo que ha sido una preparación de pesadilla para la Copa del Mundo. Sin embargo, Artan no es el único que sufre el trago amargo del rechazo. A varios miembros de la delegación iraní (que no son jugadores) también se les ha negado

la entrada a USA, sin duda debido a su vinculación con el régimen actual. Por otra parte, la República Democrática del Congo tampoco contará con aficionados que viajen desde su tierra natal. El brote de ébola ha descartado cualquier viaje de seguidores desde la República Democrática del Congo a los Estados Unidos. Por fortuna, todo el equipo juega en Europa y no ha estado en África desde hace mucho más tiempo que el periodo de cuarentena obligatorio de 21 días.

Todas estas dificultades, entre otras cosas, no han dejado

la mejor imagen del torneo. La FIFA y los organizadores locales tienen que confiar en que, una vez que comiencen los partidos, la gente se concentre más en lo que pasa dentro de la cancha. Queda por ver si el plan de boletaje de la FIFA funciona al grado de que la gente pueda entrar a los estadios a tiempo para ver los juegos, especialmente en USA. Controlar el acceso y la salida de los estadios será el siguiente reto a superar.

# BofA Kicks Off FIFA World Cup 2026™ With 2 Million Free Fan Bands and Fan Experiences Nationwide

CHARLOTTE, NC — Bank of America, the Official Bank of FIFA World Cup 2026™, announced the debut of 2 million custom, collectible BofA Fan Bands, starting June 11 across all 11 U.S. host cities.

“FIFA World Cup 2026 is the first World Cup on U.S. soil in decades, and we wanted to help create memories that will last even longer,” said David Tyrie, President, Marketing, Digital and Specialized Consumer Client Solutions. “BofA Fan Bands are designed to capture the energy of FIFA World Cup 2026™, celebrating the iconic teams, passionate fans and the host cities at the heart of the tournament.”

### Where to get BofA Fan Bands:

The exclusive BofA Fan Bands collection will debut across all 11 U.S. host cities beginning June 11. Featuring 140 custom-designed beads and more than 2 million free bracelets in red, blue and black, the collection draws inspiration

from tournament moments, iconic host city landmarks and national team colors.

More than 10 million BofA Fan Band beads will be distributed nationwide, giving fans the chance to build, trade and collect personalized keepsakes throughout the tournament. The custom bead collection also pays tribute to the unique culture, energy and spirit of the American host cities welcoming FIFA World Cup 2026™.

#### BofA Fan Bands

- The FIFA World Cup Trophy
- Surfboards and palm trees in Los Angeles
- The Golden Gate Bridge and a San Francisco trolley car
- Seattle’s famous Mt. Ranier
- A Dallas cowboy hat
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- The Liberty Bell and a Philly cheesesteak
- The Statue of Liberty and NYC taxi
- A 305 and Miami maracas
- Kansas City’s famous fountains and barbeque sauce
- Atlanta’s famous peach

- A Boston lobster and lucky clover

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# City of Detroit DON Cast Recap: Tech-Career Development and Demolition Site Soil Remediation in the Works

By Estefania Arellano-Bermudez

To combat the digital divide, Npower, a local affiliate of the national non-profit organization, is offering free technology training for Detroit 18 and older.

“We provide no-cost tech training programs for individuals looking to learn more about technology and ultimately start a career,” said Erica Payton, Site Director at NPower in Detroit.

NPower’s tech-career program provides laptops, access to low-cost internet, and “resources that allow for program success.” The program is completely remote and is beneficial to those hoping to break into tech careers such as Google IT, cybersecurity analyst, media/AV support, and more.

“We’re teaching you everything you need to know to successfully pass those certification exams,” Payton said.

The next Tech Fundamentals and Data Analytics cohort will begin in August and requires a time commitment of four hours each day, excluding weekends. It will run for 18 weeks. Apart from that, there will be a cloud program two days a week in the evenings, and a cybersecurity program. For more information, residents may contact Kiara Conway, Recruitment and Admissions Manager, at [kiara.conway@npower.org](mailto:kiara.conway@npower.org).

Another note at this past Monday’s DON Cast was the soil remediation project

underway at demolition sites - a matter of the utmost concern for residents such as John Myers from district 4 who brought up accountability.

“Who’s paying for this and how was this allowed to happen after all the demolition controversies that happened for years,” said Myers.

Last year, Detroit demolition contract company Gayanga Co. LLC was suspended from city work amid a federal investigation after there were claims of contaminated soil being used to fill residential properties. City officials were not able to say much on the subject as this is still an open investigation, however it was clarified that money is coming from the Blight budget.

“This doesn’t mean that there is an issue with property nearby a targeted demolition site,” said, press secretary with the construction and demolition department. “It simply means that the department is conducting testing to verify the fill material used after demolition.”

Certain demolition sites filled prior to November 2025 will be tested. So far, that means over 400 sites will be tested in total, of which 300 have already been tested. Residents within 400 feet of a selected site will receive notice to let them know that certain demolition sites will be fenced off for testing.

Currently there is an interactive map on the city website updated with ADA

compliance to allow residents to learn which sites are complete, in testing, or scheduled for testing. Possible contaminants include arsenic, chromium, zinc, mercury, benzopyrene, and phenanthrene. If a site is found to have contaminants, the fill will be replaced and neighbors will be notified through the process, according to city officials.

Although direct exposure can have health effects, “the material in question is buried a foot or more below ground,” according to official documents.

Lots undergoing testing will be placed in a temporary sale hold. Initial testing will take a month, followed by two months of removal, and a replacement fill will take another month. Testing is expected to conclude soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Every Monday at 5pm, city officials discuss ongoing and upcoming projects in Detroit on the zoom for the Department of Neighborhoods’ meeting, dubbed the DON Cast. The link to the Don Cast can be found on the website for the City of Detroit.*

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*Estefania Arellano-Bermudez is a Latina freelance writer living in metro Detroit. She is a regular contributor to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News and a member of Planet Detroit’s Neighborhood Reporting Lab.*



De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,  
**Eric R. Sabree**



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CON EL PROCESO  
DE ASISTENCIA  
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# Southwest Detroit Roots Inspire Public Health Journey

By Bob Cunningham for the School of Public Health, University of Michigan

Growing up in the Springwells neighborhood of Southwest Detroit, Esther Guerrero can see the freeway from her backyard. She hears train whistles from nearby railroads mixed with boat horns from the shipping docks. Factory smoke from the Marathon plant and Zug Island hang in the air she breathes every day.

to understand the body’s physical mechanisms while adding a minor in Latin American Studies. After graduation, she joined Michigan’s Future Public Health Leaders Program (FPHLP), which changed everything. Guerrero, who said she wasn’t quite ready yet for graduate school, spent two and a half years leading youth

her education. She works two part-time jobs—one at the School of Public Health’s Careers Office and another at Ford Field. “Commuting is definitely a challenge,” she said. “Waking up earlier than everyone else to get to my 9 a.m. class, doing late nights at the library and then coming home via the bus. But at the end of the day, I’m

*I think we all know the hype of the University of Michigan, and the hype really is true. But now, I get to be part of that community of people doing life-changing work and bring it back to Detroit.* — Esther Guerrero



Esther Guerrero, MPH '26

“We’re neighbored by factories,” Guerrero said of her childhood home, where she still lives. “I didn’t really understand the impact of that environment until I started studying public health.” Now, as she prepares to graduate with her Master of Public Health degree in Health Behavior & Health Equity from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Guerrero has transformed her lived experience into fuel for change. She’s also earning a certificate in Maternal and Child Nutrition with a focus on health communications—skills she’s already putting to work in Detroit.

Guerrero’s path to public health began long before she knew what the field was called. As a high school student, she joined the Latinx Youth Council at Congress of Communities, helping create a program called Nuestro Futuro (Our Future), with a special focus on self-care. “Health was always at the root of the work I did,” she said. “I just didn’t know I was doing public health work.” She started college at Wayne State University as a Biology major, wanting to understand health from the ground up. A friend heard her talking about her interests and suggested she look into public health. “I fell in love with it,” said Guerrero, who earned a bachelor’s degree from Wayne State. “It was just perfect for me.” She kept her Biology minor

programming at Congress of Communities in Detroit, the same organization where she had once been a youth council member. Working with young people showed her where she could make the biggest impact. “I became really passionate about nutrition because when you work with young folks, you see where the needs are,” she said. “But I knew I needed more education to assess what I wanted to assess.”

grateful for the opportunity.” That gratitude extends to the scholarships that have supported Guerrero’s journey, including the Michigan Public Health Internship Transition Fund, the Reproductive and Women’s Health Summer Internship, and the Zavela Family Scholarship Fund. “The support has been life-changing,” she said. The challenges have shaped her character.

*Esther’s story is remarkable and underscores the need to support students who have lived experience and bring a unique perspective to the work we do, both in Health Behavior & Health Equity and in the School of Public Health. Esther’s voice is critical to making changes necessary to strive toward health equity.* — Darrell Hudson, chair of the Department of Health Behavior & Health Equity

**The daily commute as practice** Every school day, Guerrero’s parents drop her at the bus station in Detroit. She takes the D2A2 bus to Blake Transit Center in Ann Arbor, then either catches another bus or walks about a mile to the School of Public Health. “I usually like to walk to put into practice some of those health behaviors,” she said. “It’s a little funny because it’s what I study, but I try to really live what I practice.” As a first-generation college student and child of immigrants, Guerrero has faced financial challenges throughout

“I’m proud of myself for being able to overcome things that might have knocked me down early on,” Guerrero said. **Bringing science to the community** During an internship at Henry Ford Health, Guerrero created communication materials for the Triple Crown Program, which focuses on maternal and child health. Her main project involved designing information about syphilis testing for pregnant mothers. “I had to put it into plain language so the target audience could understand without scientific jargon,” she said. “But also reassuring them that this is

completely normal, just part of their prenatal care.” Guerrero created a card for mothers and a training presentation for community health workers—materials that Henry Ford Health now uses regularly. This work reflects Guerrero’s broader passion of translating complex science into messages everyone can understand. She’s currently producing a documentary called “Detroit is Genius: A Day in the Life of a Detroit Genius,” featuring two seniors from Cass Technical High School. Screenings are planned for March or April. “I’m technically a senior too,” she said about being in the final year of grad school. “It’s going to be really great to graduate and close off this journey with a film about two students showing that genius comes from Detroit.”

**Building community through La Salud** As co-president of La Salud, a student organization focused on Latine health issues, Guerrero has created spaces for cultural celebration and difficult conversations. Last fall, the group held a Día de los Muertos event where students created small magazines called zines honoring loved ones who had died.

**The power of connection** Her favorite part of the Health Behavior & Health Equity program is the people: “the peace and love folks” who can see humanity in data and numbers. Chair Darrell Hudson, Guerrero said, has opened his home to host dinners with students. Amy Schulz, professor, taught her about community-based participatory research, while Alison Miller, professor, guided her understanding of child development. “The faculty is so welcoming, so warm,” Guerrero said. “They’re really good examples of where we could be, where we’re headed.” “Esther’s story is remarkable and underscores the need to support students who have lived experience and bring a unique perspective to the work we do, both in Health Behavior & Health Equity and in the School of Public Health,” Hudson said. “Esther’s voice is critical to making changes necessary to strive toward health equity.” “While I am no genius myself, I am a native Detroiter and Esther truly represents the genius of Detroit. She is a delight in our department and while we will miss her, we are looking forward to her contributions to the field.” Guerrero also credits staff members like Hallie Williams, program coordinator, who keeps a drawer stocked with snacks and personal care items for anyone who needs them. “They really embody what public health means,” she said. After graduation, Guerrero hopes to work in health communications, possibly starting her own business to help people in southwest Detroit and beyond meet their nutritional needs through education. “I’m good at translating scientific ideas into something you can understand and digest,” she said. “I hope to do that at a bigger scale, through consulting or with a company that aligns with my values.” For Guerrero, public health is a calling that has brought her back to where she started. “I think we all know the hype of the University of Michigan, and the hype really is true,” she said. “But now, I get to be part of that community of people doing life-changing work and bring it back to Detroit.”



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# After Being Released from North Lake, Life Continues for a Venezuelan Immigrant

Article and photos by Erick Diaz Veliz

Catching up on bills, getting back to work, and seeing his family again is what life looks like now for Willians Molina after spending two months detained at the North Lake Processing Center.

At the La Gran Comisión Christian Church in Detroit, the reverend begins asking the congregation. It is a regular Sunday service.

“Who would you like to ask God for?” he asks.

“For our countries that are at war!” someone responds.

“For immigration cases!” says a woman.

“For the detainees!” a voice is heard from the back.

Sitting at the church’s sound mixer, 33-year-old Willians Molina did not say it deliberately. Molina was detained for nearly two months at ICE’s North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, MI and is now free; he is in charge of the church’s sound system and plays the keyboard during church concerts. His wife and two children watch him from the pews; they will return together to their home in Detroit.

Upon returning, memories of the lack of medical care inside the facility, the guards who would not let people sleep,

the hard and uncomfortable bed, the daily head counts, the hard beans served with meals, and the roommates who were frequently changed still come to mind. But he also remembers the friends he made, the domino games with fellow detainees, and those who shouted, “Where are you taking him?” on the day a guard who did not speak Spanish escorted him out upon his release on April 2 thanks to a habeas corpus petition.

“When I got home, my wife asked me, ‘What do you want to eat?’ and I told her, ‘I want an arepa,’ and she made me an arepa,” recalls Molina, who still remembers the bland food he received while detained.

“I felt comfortable, I felt delighted. I was able to use scented soap because the soap there has no smell. I shaved, though not all of my beard because I like my beard. I was able to sleep comfortably in a bed because sleeping there was uncomfortable. The joy of seeing my little daughter, hugging her, my son, my wife, talking with them.”

But the first thing, Molina also says, was catching up on payments. Electricity and water bills, rent, and phone bills had accumulated into thousands of dollars. Month after month, families of immigrants detained for several months struggle to cover rent, food, and medical expenses as immigration agents arrest families’ bread winners, while donations from activist

groups and churches help offset the costs.

“I was the only one working. My wife was left alone with our daughter and son,” says Molina. “During the time I was imprisoned, the debts piled up,” he adds.

Molina has many jobs, or as they would say in Peru, the country where he lived with his family for six years, he is a thousand jobs person. Mechanic, musician, and delivery driver are the jobs that helped support his family before he was arrested by ICE and that continue to support them now that he is free.

Like many immigrants in Michigan, immigration agents arrested Molina while he was working. Driving through Southwest Detroit, stopped at a red light, four SUVs with tinted windows boxed him in. Molina saw lights in front and behind him. “They had been following me,” he recalls.

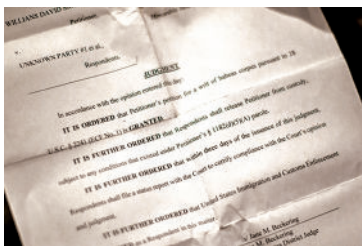
He did not resist even though

able to call his wife, and that same day he was sent to North Lake.

“There I saw pregnant women,” says Molina. “Women who were arrested while taking their children to school. They would arrest them and leave their children behind with someone who wasn’t even a relative. It shouldn’t be that way.”

For Molina, deportation would’ve been a nightmare for his family and all they did to be where they are. He never thought about self-deportation. Molina and his family passed through several countries to reach the United States, crossing some of them on foot. Born in Maracay and raised in Zaraza, Venezuela, Molina decided to leave, fleeing the dictatorship and economic crisis affecting his country, together with his wife and first child; they went to Peru.

In the Andean country, near the capital, they lived for six years, where he worked as a mechanic, small business owner, and musician. It was during a visit to Venezuela that they decided to pursue the American dream by crossing the Darién Gap, the dense jungle that divides Colombia and Panama and where thousands of migrants have perished amid the hostile jungle, drug trafficking, paramilitary guerrillas, and human trafficking.



Upon reaching the U.S. border, he and his family entered as asylum seekers. A few months later, he would set foot in Detroit for the first time on the recommendation of a fellow Venezuelan after trying, unsuccessfully, to make a life in Texas.

“I had a Social Security number, a work permit, and a driver’s license,” he adds. “Not a single ticket in all the years I’ve been driving here, paying my taxes, behaving myself, trying to do everything legally so people would respect me. And well, look.”

From North Lake prison, Molina brought back a Bible whose pages are filled with notes. He used it when a priest visited the detainees or read it religiously every day inside his cell.

After his release, Molina celebrated his 33rd birthday with his family; now he can pick up his son from school and was there for his graduation. And although seeing large vehicles with tinted windows near him still makes him nervous and he still fears being arrested again, he is grateful every day for being far from the cold cells of North Lake.

*Erick Diaz Veliz is a Peruvian reporter based in Lansing, Michigan. He has documents and reports on cultural, social, and political issues in Peru and Michigan as a freelancer. Erick was born in Lima, Peru, and has been living in Lansing since 2018.*

# Después de ser liberado de North Lake, la vida continúa para un inmigrante venezolano

Artículo y fotos de Erick Diaz Veliz

Ponerse al día en gastos, recuperar el trabajo, y volver a ver a la familia es lo que la vida es ahora para Willians Molina después de estar dos meses detenido en el centro de procesamiento North Lake.

En el local de la iglesia cristiana La Gran Comisión en Detroit, el reverendo comienza a preguntar a los fieles. Es una misa de domingo.

“¿Por quienes le quieren pedir a Dios?”, pregunta.

“¡Por nuestros países que están en guerra!” Se escucha.

“¡Por los procesos migratorios!”, dice una mujer.

“¡Por los detenidos!” se escuchó desde el fondo.

Sentado en el mezclador de sonido de la iglesia, Willians Molina de 33 años, no lo dijo deliberadamente. Molina estuvo detenido casi dos meses en el centro de procesamiento de ICE, North Lake, en Baldwin, y ahora está libre; es el encargado de sonido de la iglesia y toca el órgano durante los conciertos. Su esposa y sus dos hijos lo observan desde los asientos, volverán juntos a su casa en Detroit.

A su regreso, los recuerdos de escasa atención médica dentro del recinto, los guardias que no dejaban dormir, la cama dura e incomoda, los conteos diarios, los frijoles duros de la comida y los compañeros de cuarto que eran cambiado de forma seguida, aun les saludan la mente. Pero también recuerda los amigos que hizo, los juegos de dominó con sus compañeros, o aquellos que



reclamaron “A donde lo llevas” el día que un guardia que no hablaba español se lo llevó a su liberación un dos de abril gracias a un habeas corpus.

“Cuando volví a casa, mi mujer me dijo ¿qué quieres comer? y yo le dije quiero arepa y ella me preparó arepa”, recuerda Molina, quien aún recuerda la insípida comida que recibía en su detención.

“Me sentí cómodo, me sentí encantado. Pude usar jabón de olor, porque los jabones allá no tienen olor. Me afeité no toda

la barba porque A mí me gusta mi barba. Pude dormir cómodo en una cama, porque allí dormir era incómodo. La alegría de ver a mi hijita, abrazarla, a mi hijo, a mi esposa, hablar con ellos.”

Pero lo primero también, dice Molina, fue ponerse al día en los pagos. Servicios de luz y agua, la renta y el teléfono que se estaban acumulando en miles de dólares. Al mes, familias de inmigrantes detenidos por varios meses batallan para contener los gastos de renta, alimento y medicina, donde

donaciones de grupos activistas e iglesias ayudan a solventar.

“Yo era el único que trabajaba. Mi esposa quedó sola con la niña y el niño,” dice Molina. “En ese tiempo estuve preso, se acumularon las deudas”, menciona. Molina tiene muchos trabajos, o como dirían en Perú, país en el que vivió 6 años con su familia, un mil oficios. Mecánico, músico y conductor delivery son los trabajos que le ayudaron a mantener a su familia antes de ser arrestado por ICE y que le siguen manteniendo ahora que está libre.

Como a muchos inmigrantes en Michigan, agentes migratorios apresaron a Molina mientras trabajaba. Manejando por el sur de Detroit, en un semáforo en rojo, 4 SUV de lunas polarizadas lo encajonaron, Molina observó luces adelante y atrás. “Me habían estado siguiendo,” recuerda. No mostró resistencia a pesar de que el oficial con el rostro cubierto que se acercó a su

# The High Cost of ICE Pursuits

By Koby Levin for Outlier Media – Reprinted with permission

Two Detroiters were severely injured in car crashes in just the last three weeks after ICE agents chased their vehicles. Much of the public outrage has focused on the hospitals that treated Yerlys Moreno López and Mohamd Salim Abdessamed—DMC Detroit Receiving Hospital and

Corewell Health in Dearborn, respectively — which refused to communicate with their family members, yielding to ICE pressure to keep mum. Less attention has been paid to why the crashes happened at all. Every car chase endangers the people involved and everyone around it. Earlier this

year, a Guatemalan man facing deportation fled an ICE traffic stop in Georgia and fatally struck a kindergarten teacher. ICE policy requires agents to show that chases are necessary. Can that be said about Moreno López and Abdessamed, asylum seekers with upcoming court dates and no known criminal history?

Last week, I stopped by the neighborhood where Abdessamed’s car spun out of control. There were kids everywhere — one wide-eyed gaggle rolled up on bikes eager to know what happened. April King, whose home was damaged in the incident, told me she feels lucky none of the neighborhood’s many children

were injured. “They say he’s in critical condition,” she said of Abdessamed. “I don’t think he did anything that warranted that. For something as simple as his (immigration status), you could have just knocked on his door..”

## Detroiters Says ICE Agents Broke Her Knee, Disputing Agency’s Account

By Koby Levin for Outlier Media – Reprinted with permission

A Venezuelan asylum seeker injured during an encounter with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents last month has submitted a sworn statement that contradicts the agency’s version of events. Yerlys Moreno López said ICE agents forced her to the ground after a May 19 car chase and crash, breaking her knee and causing other injuries that required emergency surgery. The agency claims she sustained the injuries in the crash itself. Medical records submitted by her attorneys appear to support her account. At the hospital a few hours after the incident, Moreno López repeatedly told doctors that she was injured after getting out of her vehicle. Moreno López’s injuries fuel concerns that ICE’s tactics have become increasingly violent during President Donald Trump’s second term. Another migrant, Mohamd Salim Abdessamed, was severely injured last week after an apparent ICE car chase.



Attorneys for Moreno López filed a petition for habeas corpus in federal court seeking her immediate release from the North Lake detention center. Source: Photographs in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress

ICE has denied misconduct by its agents during Moreno López’s detention. Moreno López and Abdessamed were both treated at hospitals in the Detroit area — the Detroit Medical Center’s Detroit Receiving Hospital and Corewell Health in Dearborn, respectively — that refused to share information about the patients’ medical statuses, even with family members, apparently bowing to pressure from ICE. Attorneys for Moreno López filed a petition for habeas corpus in federal court seeking her immediate release from the North Lake detention center, arguing that she was unlawfully detained and won’t receive adequate medical care.

### Competing accounts

Reach reporter Koby Levin on Signal at koby\_det.18 or koby@outliermedia.org. Moreno López, who entered the country through legal channels in 2024, had just left her home on Detroit’s eastside on May 19 when ICE agents attempted to pull her over. According to her sworn statement, she tried to drive away before agents cut her off, causing her to crash her SUV into a parked car. Jennifer Newby, an assistant attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, asserted in federal court last week that Moreno López broke her kneecap in the crash. But medical records submitted by her attorneys indicate she told hospital staff that her injuries occurred after. “She was getting out of her car when she was tackled to the ground and hit her knees, right elbow/arm and left side of



Yerlys Moreno López underwent surgery after a violent immigration arrest. Photo credit: Jim West for Outlier Media

her face on the concrete,” one doctor wrote. In her sworn statement, Moreno López said, “I exited my car. Two ICE agents tackled me to the ground. One, with orange hair and a beard, grabbed my hair and pulled my shirt.” According to her medical records, Moreno López’s injuries include a fractured kneecap, a laceration on the other knee that required eight stitches, a large scrape on her right forearm, a blow to the head, and bruises on her neck and face. She did not lose consciousness during the incident, and scans found no severe brain injury, though she was diagnosed with head trauma. ‘Subpar medical care’ After Moreno López’s surgery, doctors prescribed orthopedic rehabilitation. They expected her to be discharged to an ICE

facility in Cincinnati capable of meeting her medical needs, records show. Instead, she was taken to North Lake, where detainees have held hunger strikes to protest inadequate healthcare access. Failures of care at the facility are “pervasive and serious,” according to a recent report from the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan. North Lake medical records filed by the government show that the facility’s initial care program for Moreno López involved walking down a hallway three times a day using a walker. Her attorneys argue she should be freed immediately because the facility’s “subpar medical care” would cause her irreparable harm. ICE attorneys argue that there is no evidence that Moreno López has received inadequate medical care at North Lake.

GEO Group, the for-profit company that operates North Lake, referred questions to ICE. “These incidents are not just a matter of immigration policy, but also civil rights and healthcare for vulnerable individuals,” said Christine Sauvé, spokesperson for the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center. “It really is a public health crisis. Patients like Yerlys may suffer harm when returned to immigration detention where specialty medical care is routinely unavailable or inadequate, despite the laws and policies requiring it.”

This article first appeared on Outlier Media and is republished here under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. Koby Levin (he/him) believes curiosity is food for love, and love drives people to fight for their communities. He enjoys the many moods of the Detroit River. Message him on Signal at koby\_det.18.

## La vida continúa para un inmigrante venezolano

Continúa de la página 8

ventana se dirigió a él de forma brusca pidiéndole “Estatus” repetidamente y otro intentaba abrir la puerta del copiloto. Molina pudo llamar a su esposa y ese mismo día fue enviado a North Lake. “Allí pude ver a mujeres embarazadas,” dice Molina. “Mujeres que fueron arrestadas mientras llevaban a sus hijos a la escuela. Las agarraban y dejaban a sus hijos botados junto a alguien que no es familiar suyo. Eso no debería de ser así. Molina y su familia pasaron por varios países para llegar

a los Estados Unidos, en algunos los atravesó a pie. Nacido en Maracay y criado en Zaraza en Venezuela, Molina decidió salir, escapando de la dictadura y la crisis económica que atravesaba su país, junto a su esposa y su primer hijo; se fueron a Perú. En el país andino, cerca a la capital, vivieron 6 años donde trabajó de mecánico y músico. Fue una visita a Venezuela donde tomaron la decisión de perseguir el sueño americano atravesando el Tapón de Darién, esa tupida selva que divide Colombia y Panamá y

donde miles de inmigrantes han perecido entre la hostil selva, el narcotráfico, guerrilleros paramilitares y la trata de personas. Al llegar a la frontera, él y su familia entraron como así antes del asilo. Unos meses después, pisaría Detroit por primera vez por recomendación de un compatriota después de probar suerte, aunque sin éxito, en Texas. “Yo con social security, permiso de trabajo y licencia”, agrega. “Ni un ticket en todos los años que he tenido aquí manejando, declarando mis impuestos, portándome bien,



tratando, haciendo todo legalmente para que me respeten. Y bueno, fíjate.” De la prisión North Lake, Molina se trajo una biblia cuyo interior esta lleno de apuntes. El la usaba cuando un padre

visitaba a los internos o la leía todos los días religiosamente dentro de su celda. Después de salir, Molina celebró con su familia su cumpleaños 33; ahora puede recoger a su hijo de la escuela, estuvo con él su graduación. Y aunque aún le generan nervios ver autos grandes con lunas polarizadas cerca de él y aun tema ser arrestado nuevamente, agradece cada día como una bendición estar lejos de las frías celdas de North Lake.

# DCFC men fall in penalty kicks



Sports Editor: Dan Grashuck/ EL CENTRAL

Story and photos by Adam J. Dewey - for EL CENTRAL

After regulation ends 1-1, Detroit City FC falls to Lexington Sporting Club in

penalty kicks (1-3) in their group stage USL Cup matchup on June 6th, 2026.

For more information about the game please see David Levine's article on page 11.

The DCFC men go on the road, this Saturday, June 13th, taking on Sporting JAX, at 7:00 p.m., before returning home on Saturday, June 20th, hosting Louisville City FC at 5:00 p.m.

For more information about Detroit City FC, visit [detcityfc.com](http://detcityfc.com) and follow @DetroitCityFC on Twitter and Facebook and @detroitcityfootballclub on Instagram.

Photos below are highlights from the DCFC men vs. Lexington Sporting Club game



Rafa Mentzingen (#17) makes a pass



Ates Diouf (#32) and Jacob Greene (#2) collide while fighting for position to head the ball



Alex Dalou (#15) drives the ball upfield along the sideline



Darren Smith (#7) gives chase to Aaron Molloy (#6)

## DCFC women fall to AFC Ann Arbor, 1 - 2

Story and photos by Adam J. Dewey – El Central

Detroit City FC falls to AFC Ann Arbor 2-1 in a USL-W

match up at Keyworth Stadium on June 3rd, 2026.

The DCFC women are on the road Tuesday, June 16th, taking on AFC Ann Arbor, at 7:00

p.m., before returning home on Saturday, June 20th, hosting Union FC Macomb at 8:00 p.m..

For more information about Detroit City FC, visit

[detcityfc.com](http://detcityfc.com) and follow @DetroitCityFC on Twitter and Facebook and @detroitcityfootballclub on Instagram.

Photos below are highlights from the DCFC women vs. AFC Ann Arbor game on June 3rd



Erin Rasmussen (#19) fights for positioning to control the ball during an offensive attack on goal



Danielle Stephan (#7) catches a pass in midfield.

Detroit City Slips To Penalty Kick Loss

EL CENTRALPatcando la No. 5  
HISPANIC NEWS

SPORTS

Because last Saturday's game against Lexington FC counted for the Prinx Tires USL Cup, Detroit City had to endure the lottery of a penalty kick shootout before succumbing to their first negative result at home of 2026. The club remains unbeaten in the league, but



David Levine  
EL CENTRAL

this loss in the Cup will sting. The first half went according to plan with the exception of Ates Diouf missing a penalty. Oliver Semmler made a decent save on Diouf's poorly struck shot. He hit it far too close to the middle of the goal. DCFC kept pushing though and made the breakthrough from a corner. Callum Montgomery swept home his first goal for the club, giving them a deserved lead going into

halftime. All DCFC had to do was close up shop and walk away with three points to remain in contention for the quarterfinals. They came frustratingly close to holding on. Ex-MLS midfielder Latif Blessing took a swipe at a loose ball five minutes into stoppage time at the end of the game and saw his not so great shot take a massive deflection off Montgomery and loop up

over Carlos Herrera. The game went straight to penalties and Semmler proved that stopping Diouf's early penalty kick was no fluke. He saved from Abdoulaye Diop, Preston Tabort Etaka, and Aedan Stanley to start the tie-breaker, dooming Detroit City to defeat. Le Rouge earned a point for the regulation draw, but Lexington got two for winning the shootout. The

result leaves DCFC fifth in Group 4 with two games remaining. If they win their last two games in regulation time, they will be in contention to advance. They will meet Louisville City at home and Fort Wayne FC away to finish group play. For now though, their thoughts have to be on the midweek home game against El Paso and the trip to Jacksonville at the weekend.

Detroit Tigers update

Story and photos by Mike Alberts - EL CENTRAL

Comerica Park - Tigers vs Mariners June 5, 6, 7

The Tigers won two out of three games to win the series. On Friday, Framer Valdez earned the win with 5 innings pitched. The Tigers won the

game 7 to 3. It was good to see him back in a winning mode. On Saturday, Keider Montero started the game, but the Tigers did not score any runs and the

Mariners won 4-0. Sunday, was the payoff with Kevin McGonigle hitting a 420' home run in the 4th inning and then hitting a 2 run walk-off single

in the 9th. The Tigers won the rubber game 5 to 4.



#54 Keider Montero



#7 Kevin McGonigle



#59 Framer Valdez

Story and photos by Mike Alberts - EL CENTRAL

Tarek Skubal, the Tigers multi Cy Young award winning pitcher, returned to Comerica

on Saturday, June 7, 2026, to be recognized and honored as a Lou Gehrig Memorial Finalist. Returning from injury, he presented a special Tiger wheelchair to a family affected

by ALS. He autographed the powered wheelchair and greeted the family on the field before Saturday's game. Skubal then departed for Grand Rapids, Michigan and a start on Sunday

with the West Michigan Whitecaps. He was lights out in his return from injury, pitching 5 innings, giving up 2 hits, no runs, no walks, 5 strikeouts, throwing 54 pitches (44 strikes).

Welcome home Tarek.



Tarek Skubal, Saturday presents wheelchair to Lou Gerigh awardee

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\* EPIC/MLA 2011

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:  
The Coming Revival of America  
Trump has shown us why we need a good and decent government

By Robert Reich

I detest him and everything he does or says. Ditto his despicable aides and Cabinet members, his unprincipled sycophants and suck-ups.



But it's possible that someday we'll look back on this horrendous era and say we needed Trump. We needed to see how horrible it could get before America was able to revive its ideals.

Please hear me out. Even before Trump, we were barreling down the wrong road. Inequalities of income, wealth, and opportunity were worsening. Legalized bribery was soaring in the form of mounting campaign contributions from big corporations and the wealthy. Workers were getting shafted. On Wall Street and in C-suites, fealty to the rule of law was giving way to "greed is good" selfishness. Giant corporations were monopolizing ever more of the economy. America was losing its moral authority in the world (think Abu Ghraib and the torture memo). We couldn't have remained on that road. Even if we didn't know it then, most of us understand that now. Trump has opened our eyes to the consequences of extreme greed,

corruption, cruelty, and utter disregard for the Constitution and the rule of law. His brazenness and shamelessness have awakened us to much that we took for granted. He and his regime are still dangerous as hell, of course. But the American public is catching on. His polls are in the cellar; they continue to fall.

**It's as if the nation has been through basic training in democracy, a stress test in civics, a crash course in the importance of having a decent and good government.**

Before Trump, how many Americans understood the importance of "checks and balances" among the three branches of government, as envisioned by the Founders?

Now nearly everyone knows, because we've seen what happens when the head of the executive branch usurps the power of Congress and defies the federal courts.

How many of us really knew what "due process" meant when it came to giving people accused by the government an opportunity to defend themselves?

By now most of us have seen videos of people dragged out of their homes in the dead of night by masked agents of the U.S. government and thrown into detention camps without so much as a hearing. And we've

seen government agents murder American citizens in cold blood on the streets of our cities.

Did we understand the meaning of corruption, bribes, self-dealing, and pay-to-play before Trump extorted corporations and billionaires to contribute millions to his campaign, his PAC, his inauguration, his ballroom, and his 250th birthday party? Now, we surely do.

Did we really know the importance of professional civil servants before Trump fired tens of thousands of them and substituted brainless loyalists? Before he got rid of the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics because it published truthful jobs data he didn't like?

Did we understand the importance of expertise before Trump turned his back on career diplomats at the State Department, doctors and epidemiologists at the Centers for Disease Control, and experienced lawyers at the Justice Department and replaced them with loyalist hacks?

Or the meaning of "equal justice under the law" before Trump turned the Justice Department into his own private law firm to prosecute political enemies and pardon supporters?

Did we comprehend the true meaning of freedom of speech and expression before Trump attacked our universities for allowing demonstrations he

disliked? Before he got CBS to fire Stephen Colbert for satirizing him and muzzle "60 Minutes" for criticizing him?

Did we know the dangers of oligarchy before Trump authorized Elon Musk to destroy entire federal agencies? Before Trump suck-up Jeff Bezos prohibited the editorial board of The Washington Post from endorsing Kamala Harris? Before Trump turned over to Larry and David Ellison much of how Americans learn what's going on — CBS's broadcast network, its news division, and over 28 local television stations, as well as CNN, TikTok, Comedy Central, Discovery, HBO and HBO Max, and Warner Bros. Studios?

Did we understand the importance of the federal government keeping us safe and healthy before Trump eviscerated health and safety regulations? Before he decimated the Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control, and much of the Department of Health and Human Services? Before he authorized a crackpot with no medical background who opposes vaccines to run the world's largest and most powerful health agency?

Did we understand why the Federal Reserve needs to be independent of politics? Did we know why the Federal Trade Commission needs to crack

down against monopolies? Did we appreciate why the National Labor Relations Board must protect workers' rights to form unions?

**I venture to say, in answer to all of these questions: No, we did not know. Now, most of us do.**

It's a terrible time. I share your sadness, anger, and fear. But prior to this daymare, too many of us had fallen asleep at the wheel. We had let America barrel down a road that was compromising too many of the ideals we hold in common.

**Maybe we needed this horrific wakeup call in order to get back on the road we should have been on. We needed to see how fragile the institutions of self-government are in order to know why we must strengthen them. We needed to be reminded of what America is all about — what it should be about — in order to revive it — and reclaim it, for and by the people.**

We will use what we've learned. We will fight for a stronger democracy. We'll demand equal justice and the rule of law. We'll commit ourselves to the common good. And we will assign Trump and his regime to the dustbin of history.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor  
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Guest Opinion:  
What lessons emerge from the violence surrounding ICE immigration detention centers?

By José López Zamorano/ LA RED HISPANA

The escalating situation at the ICE detention center at Delaney Hall in Newark, New Jersey, has quickly become a flashpoint in the national immigration debate.

With hundreds of detainees engaging in hunger or work strikes over living conditions, and violent clashes outside involving protesters, counter-protesters, and law enforcement, the crisis offers several lessons regarding the current state of immigration enforcement, oversight, and political polarization.

The void in oversight and transparency:

One of the most immediate takeaways from Delaney Hall is the intense friction between federal operations and local or state oversight.

Federal lawmakers, New Jersey officials, and state health inspectors were initially denied full access to the facility, which is privately managed by the GEO Group.

When independent oversight is blocked, a vacuum is created that sparks conflicting narratives:

Lawmakers report food containing worms and systemic medical negligence, while the Department of Homeland

Security (DHS) issues categorical denials regarding any hunger strikes or substandard care.

Local communities bear the brunt of the consequences of federal policy. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka had to implement a strict 9:00 p.m. curfew and close major thoroughfares like Doremus Avenue to maintain public safety.

Local and state leaders find themselves in a delicate position: attempting to safeguard residents' First Amendment rights and protect immigrant families while simultaneously

deploying state police.

The federal government and the DHS have publicly promoted the narrative that the center houses the "worst of the worst" among immigrants with criminal records. However, civil rights groups (such as the ACLU of New Jersey) and congressional Democrats who toured the facilities state that more than 70% of those detained have no history of violent crime.

4. Immigration detention centers have become ideological battlegrounds. The situation at Delaney Hall escalated when activists from states like

Oregon arrived at the site and a local vigil held by detainees' families turned into a chaotic confrontation.

Delaney Hall illustrates that the visual and physical realities of modern mass detention cannot easily be hidden behind closed doors.

When basic human needs—such as food and medical care—become the catalyst for a hunger strike, external pressure results in a confrontation between local civil rights protections and federal mandates for immigration control.

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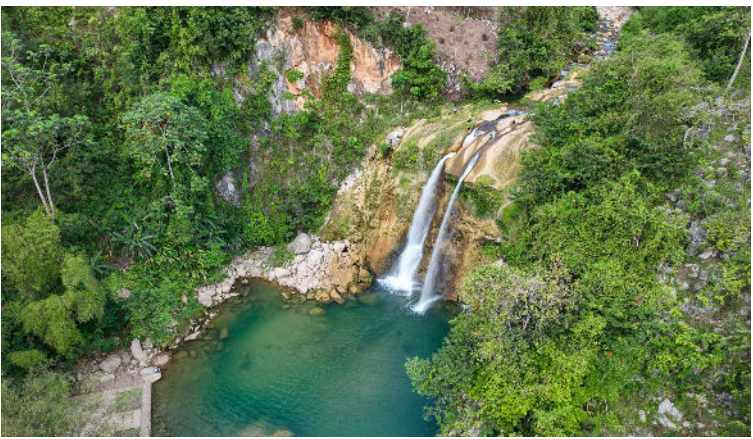
Haiti

Haiti is located in the Caribbean Sea on the largest island of the Greater Antilles, sharing the territory of the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. Its official language is Haitian French Creole. One of its most distinctive musical expressions is Kompa or Konpa, a rhythm that it's danced in pairs, slowly, with figure-eight hip movements. It is a sensual and careful dance that somewhat resembles the movements of bachata, but even more slowly, alternating three steps to one side and three steps forward, with continuous circular hip movements.

Tourism in Haiti tends to focus on its beaches, while its mountains, waterfalls, and underground caves make Haitian exceptional country. However, following earthquakes and hurricanes, tourism activity has declined significantly.

Haitian cuisine is a fusion of continents and cultures, drawing from African, Arab, Spanish, native Caribbean, and Asian traditions, making the most of both influence and exchange. Visitors can enjoy fried plantains, dishes made with cassava, rice and beans, seafood, okra, and African foutou or fufu, among others.

The island was populated thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans, called Ayti or Ayiti in the Arawak language, meaning "land of mountains," due to the island's mountainous landscape. It was also called Quisqueya, "mother of all lands," perhaps because of its great natural diversity. The Arawaks inhabited the island before the Taínos and the Ciboneyes. Later, with the arrival



of Europeans, the territory was given the name Hispaniola, a name that the island still retains today.

Haiti was the first nation in the world to abolish slavery and prohibit enslavement in 1794, demonstrating an attitude that was remarkably progressive for its time, as other parts of the world still used this system to oppress people and concentrate wealth among colonizers. Despite this initial achievement, because Haiti had not yet secured its independence, France pressured for the restoration of the slave system in 1798, and friction over independence and slavery continued until 1804.



Its revolution for independence from the French colony began at the end of the eighteenth century, in 1791. It was driven by maroon rebel movements of enslaved Africans. The war lasted twelve years, culminating in the expulsion of the French from the western part of the island at the end of 1803, although the achievement has been celebrated since January 1, 1804.

Once independence was achieved, the first president and ruler of the independent nation issued an order against the French for their crimes of enslavement, persecution, and colonization.

One of the reasons that facilitated Haiti's anti-colonial movements was the strong economy it enjoyed during the eighteenth century, as it was recognized as a major sugar-producing power, supplying a product that was widely consumed by the newly independent Thirteen American Colonies. However, after independence, the country faced major difficulties and economic blockades imposed by European powers.



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Hispanic News

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,

by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL

CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Haití

Haití

Haití se ubica en el océano Caribe en la más grande de las Antillas, compartiendo el territorio de la isla La Española con República Dominicana. Su lengua oficial es el criollo francés haitiano, una de sus expresiones musicales identitarias es el Kompa o Konpa, un ritmo que se baila en pareja lentamente con movimientos de cadera de ocho. Es un baile sensual y cuidadoso que semeja un tanto los movimientos de la bachata, pero aún más lento, e intercambiando tres hacia un lado y tres hacia adelante, con movimientos circulares.

El turismo en Haití tiende a concentrarse en sus playas, sus montañas con cascadas y grutas subterráneas hacen de Haití un país excepcional. Sin embargo, tras terremotos y huracanes la actividad ha bajado significativamente.

La gastronomía Haitiana es una fusión entre continentes y culturas, desde la tradición africana, la tradición árabe, la española, la nativa del caribe y la asiática, sacando tanto provecho como intercambio. Se pueden probar los plátanos fritos, platillos con yuca, arroz y frijoles, mariscos, la okra, y el Foutou o fufú africano, entre otros.

Antes de la llegada de los europeos, la isla era llamada en lengua arawak Ayti o Ayiti, que significa "tierra de montañas", dado el paisaje montañoso de la isla; aunque también le llamaban Quisqueya, "madre de todas las tierras", quizá por la gran diversidad natural. Los arahuacos poblaban la isla antes de los taínos y los ciboneyes, posteriormente con la llegada de los europeos al territorio la bautizaron



con el nombre de La Española, nombre que conserva el territorio hasta la fecha.

Haití es la primera nación del mundo en abolir esclavitud y prohibir la esclavización en 1794, lo que denotó su actitud profundamente avanzada para la época en que lo determinó, pues en otras partes del mundo aún se utilizaba este sistema para oprimir y concentrar la riqueza entre colonizadores. A pesar de este primer logro, como Haití aún no concretaba su independencia, Francia presionó para restituir el sistema de esclavitud en 1798, y de ahí se mantuvo la fricción hasta 1804 con respecto a la independencia y la esclavitud.



Su revolución independentista de la colonia francesa inició a finales del siglo XVIII, en 1791, fue impulsada por los movimientos rebeldes cimarrones de esclavizados africanos, la guerra duró trece años, alcanzando la expulsión de los franceses del occidente de la isla a finales de 1803, aunque se festeja desde el 1 de enero de 1804.

Una vez lograda la independencia el primer presidente y gobernante de la nación independiente levantó una orden contra los franceses por sus crímenes de esclavización, persecución y colonización.

Una de las razones que le facilitaron a Haití sus movimientos contracoloniales fue la fuerte economía de la que gozaba durante el siglo XVIII, pues era reconocida como una potencia productora de azúcar, grandemente consumida por las recién independizadas 13 colonias estadounidenses. Sin embargo, posterior a la independencia, el país enfrentaba grandes dificultades y bloqueos económicos por parte de las potencias europeas.



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(313) 263-4342  
<https://www.thomasmagees.com>

**The Brakeman**  
22 John R St., Detroit, MI 48226  
(313) 486-5300  
<https://thebrakeman.com>

**Regal Eagle**  
3537 Vernor W, Detroit, MI 48216  
(313) 228-5447

**Sean O’Callaghan’s Public House**  
821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170

**(734) 459-6666**  
<https://www.seanocallaghans-pub.com>

**Conor O’Neill’s Irish Pub & Restaurant**  
318 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 665-2968  
<https://www.conoroneills.com>  
Advertising every World Cup match from June 11-July 19.

**Commonwealth Club**  
30088 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48073  
(248) 792-9766  
<https://commonwealthclubmi.com>

**J’s Penalty Box**  
22726 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, MI 48220  
(248) 398-4070

**Buffalo Wild Wings (Downtown Detroit)**  
1218 Randolph St., Detroit, MI 48226

**Detroit Beer Co.**  
1529 Broadway St., Detroit, MI 48226  
(313) 962-1529  
<https://detroitbeerco.com>

**HopCat Detroit**  
4265 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201  
(313) 769-8828